

# Children's Cabinet

## July 25, 2019

# Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Updates: Providence Public Schools Review
- Grants to Support Family Knowledge & Choice
  - Preschool Development Grant Overview
  - Project Presentations
  - Roundtable discussion on opportunities to strengthen families
- Public Comment & Discussion

# Welcome & Introductions

# Update on Providence Public Schools

- **April 2019:** A review of Providence Public Schools was initiated by RIDE, in collaboration with and at the joint request of Governor Raimondo and Mayor Elorza.
- **May 2019:** Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy conducts the review with the support of 20 local and national experts.
- **June 2019:** Johns Hopkins publishes its report on the state of Providence Public Schools.
- **June & July 2019:** RIDE and the City of Providence host a series of nine community forums, including the June Children's Cabinet meeting.
- **July 23, 2019:** The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approves Commissioner's Resolution to assert control over the Providence Public School District.

# Update on Providence Public Schools

- Following the Council's delegation of authority to me on July 23, I am preparing a preliminary order to take control of the district under §16-7.5-1 and an order to show cause as to why that preliminary order should not become final.
- The preliminary order will be given to the Mayor of Providence, the School Board, the Acting/Interim Superintendent, and the City Council. They will be given at least a 30-day period to notify me if they intend to present evidence (witnesses and/or documents) at a show cause hearing.
- After the show cause hearing, I will issue a final order, based on the evidence presented.

# Next Steps: Fall 2019



- The Acting/Interim Superintendent, along with members of the Providence Public School District and the City, will work together to prepare for the first day of school on September 3.
- Per the Crowley Act, RIDE will be following a legal process that will last approximately 90 days to assume control of Providence public schools.
- Until a final Decision and Order is entered, the Providence Public School District will remain under its current governance structure.

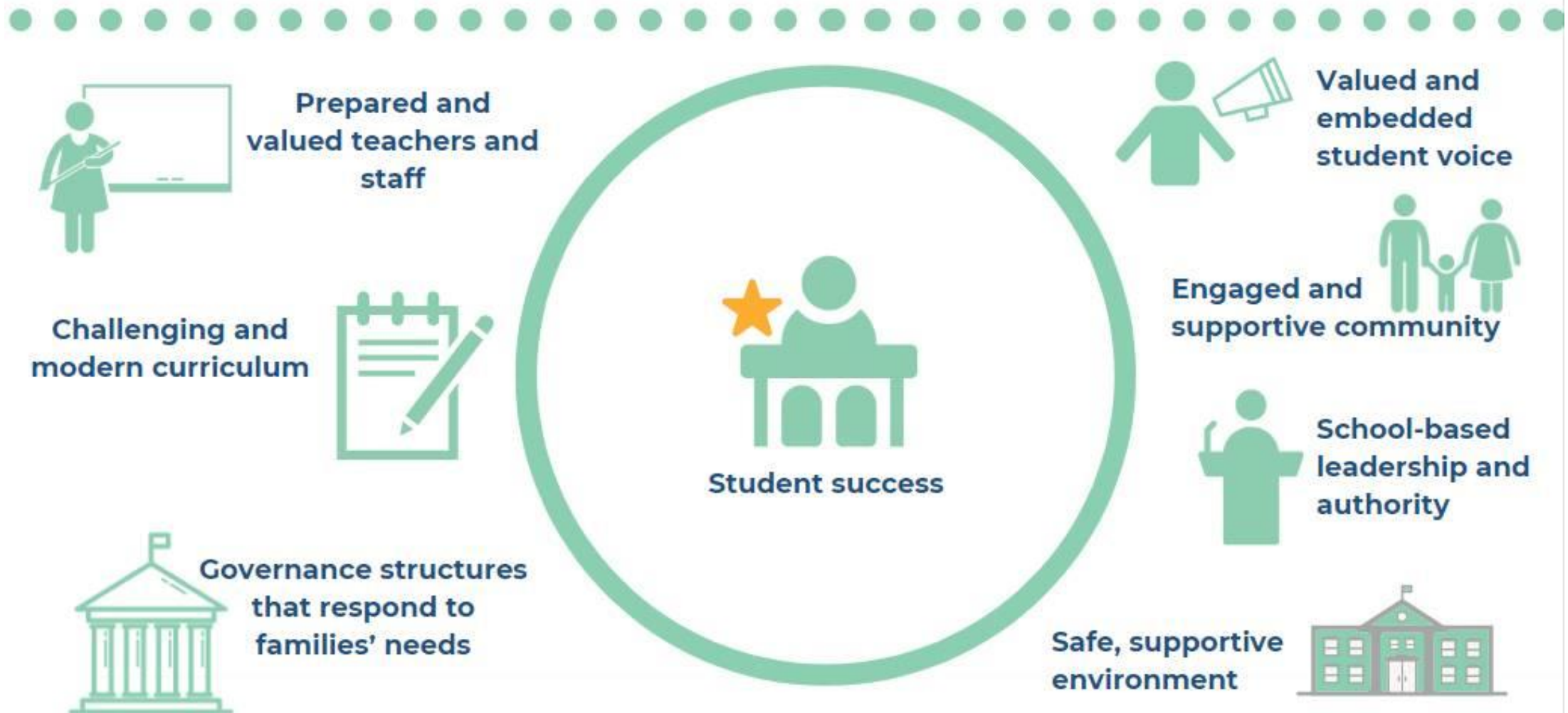
# Next Steps: Fall 2019



- RIDE has communicated its expectations to PPST that schools open as safe and supportive learning environments for kids. I will hold the city and the district accountable to ensure that this happens.
- RIDE will focus on the following statewide initiatives that will also have an impact in Providence:
  - Launching safety zones (starting with Providence)
  - Creating a school culture toolkit
  - Expanding RIDE's attendance tool
  - Identifying professional development opportunities
  - Helping LEAs create cell phone policies

# The Path Forward, Together

In order to be successful, a high performing school system must have:





# Preschool Development Grant (PDG Birth-5) Update

- RI was awarded a **\$4.2M federal grant to align, strengthen and support our state's early childhood system (birth-five)**
- DHS is the lead entity for the state in partnership with sister Children's Cabinet agencies RIDE, RIDOH, DCYF and EOHHS
- PDG will support planning for an expansion of PreK, in addition to strengthening the existing B-5 system





## PDG B-5 Overview

### Three Key Goals:

- Ensure timely and targeted services for children B-5
- Improve access to high quality early childhood education
- Expand high quality PreK

### Five Key Activities:

- Needs Assessment
- Strategic Plan
- Maximize Parental Choice and Knowledge
- Increase Collaboration and Efficiency
- Quality Improvements

## Maximize Family Choice & Knowledge: Grants to Empower Families of Young Children

- Families are young children's first – and best – teachers
- PDG grants will implement or expand programs that support family involvement and engagement in children's development and education and transition into elementary school.
- DHS and RIDOH partnered to award grants to the Health Equity Zones
- Eight projects received funding across five HEZ's and will reach more than 550 families



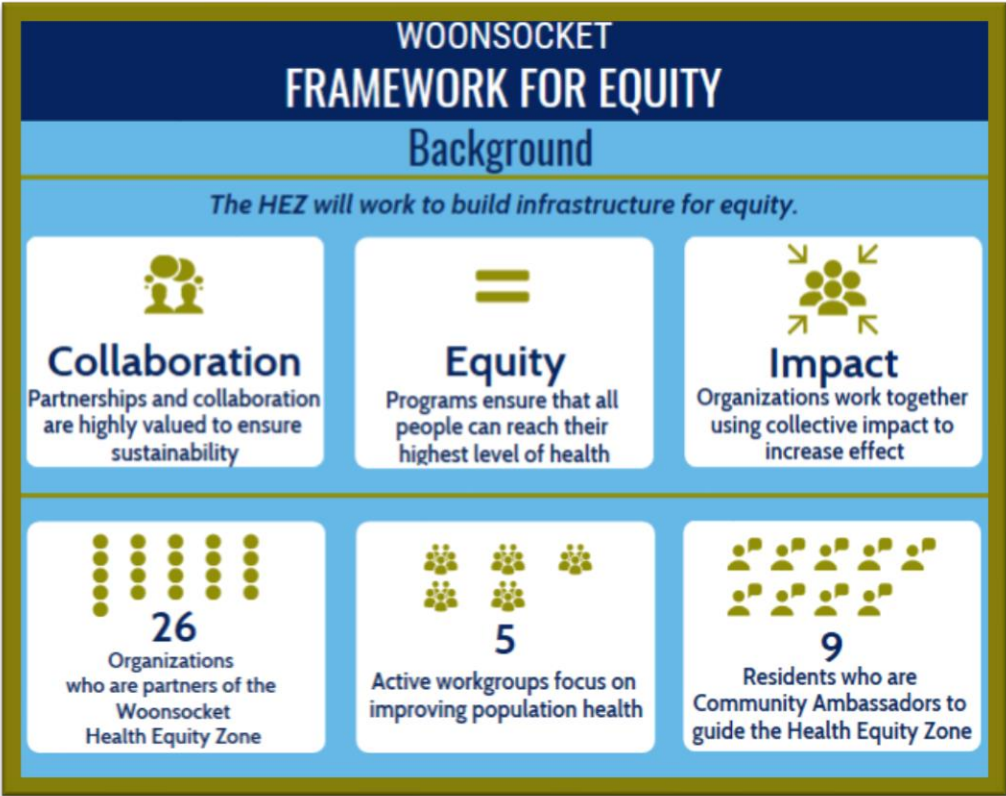


Woonsocket HEZ is implementing 3 evidence based programs: Circle of Security Parenting, Conscious Discipline, and Parents as Teachers for young parents in partnership with Woonsocket Head Start, The Autism Project, Connecting for children and families and HEZ partner organizations serving families with young children.

# Health Equity Zone

Woonsocket

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## Community Needs

Only 2 bus routes service the city and 17% of households do not own a car. In 2016-18, 41.1% of Woonsocket children lived in poverty, 71.5% of babies were born to low income families. 35.7/1000 children were victims of indicated child abuse or neglect, 8.67% of babies were born to mothers under age 20. Woonsocket had the state’s highest publicly reported overdose death rate in 2017 of 61.3 deaths per 100,000. There are gaps in food systems. Woonsocket contains half of the food deserts in the state and has a high percentage of its residents living in a food desert.

## Project Background

**Project Name:** *Parents as Teachers: Supporting School Readiness for Prenatal-5 children of teen parents*

**Focus Families:** *Pregnant and parenting teens and their families with children age 0-5 in city of Woonsocket*

**Number of Families:** *50 Families*

**Partners:** *Connecting for Children and Families, Hasbro’s Teen-Tot Program*

# Providence Talks Playgroup Extension: Central Providence Health Equity Zone



## Community Needs

- 37% of the children in Central Providence are in poverty
- 13.3 of every 1000 children are sent to the ER for asthma
- Highest elevated blood levels (~22%) in Rhode Island
- 66% are not enrolled in Headstart or State Pre-K programs

## Project Background

**Project Name:** Providence Talks Extension

**Focus Families:** Families within the CP-HEZ catchment area with children age zero to five, low-income, low maternal education, and/or low birth weight

**Number of Families:** 30 families

**Partners:** Federal Hill House, ONE Neighborhood Builders

The Culturally and Linguistically Responsive (CLR) project is designed to support the unique needs of parents/families of children whom are English Learners (ELs), including robust strategies to strengthen parent/family engagement and involvement, while simultaneously improving the capacity and quality of the classroom learning environments in addressing the learning needs of ELs.



## Community Needs

- Nine (9) percent of students are ELs, with 34 percent of all EL students in grades preschool to grade three.
- In the school districts of Pawtucket and Central Falls, 14 percent and 33 percent, respectively, of students are ELs.
- 12 percent of children under age five in Rhode Island are born to a mother who did not speak English.

## Project Background

**Project Name:** The CLR project

**Focus Families:** Parents/families of the children whom are participating in the Head Start and State-funded Pre-Kindergarten classrooms at Children's Friend in Pawtucket and Central Falls

**Number of Families:** 216

**Partners:** Children's Friend



# Fostering Emotional & Physical Wellness in Early Childhood Programs in South County



## Project Background

*Fostering healthy child development is a priority for us - HBHM is building on work we began with Project LAUNCH*

*Our work includes 4 components:*

- ▶ *Incredible Beginnings® Teacher Training*
- ▶ *1:1 TA to support child health/MH in classrooms/homes*
- ▶ *Children's Books (with health/MH themes for families)*
- ▶ *Classroom resources/materials to foster healthy eating, physical activity, and mental wellness*

## Project Details

**Teachers to be enrolled in training:** 20

**Potential low income children reached:** 300

**Partners:** Bradley Research Center – Incredible Years®  
Tri-County Community Action Head Start  
Area Title 1 Schools & Home Visiting Programs  
Preschool/ECE Sites Serving Families with CCAP

The West Warwick Health Equity Zone (WWHEZ) is expanding Westbay Community Action's Women, Infant, and Children's (WIC) services, promote early literacy efforts at the West Warwick Library, and offering RI's United Way 2-1-1 social service support.

# Health Equity Zone

## West Warwick



westbay community action

### HEZ Event

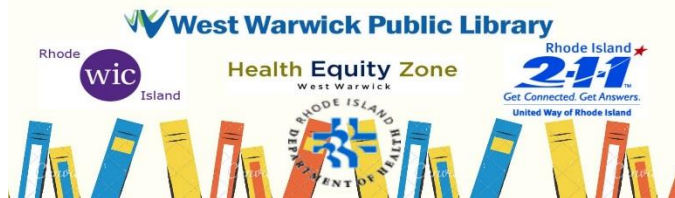
- 2-1-1 acts as a gateway to referrals throughout the community, and will offer assistance with DHS applications.
- WIC will be at the events providing nutrition and breastfeeding advice to women, new moms, infants, and children up to age 5.
- The West Warwick Library will expand their summer meal program, have special guests and activities, and assist with library card sign-ups.

10am -Family Music with  
Anne Marie Forer;

11am - Library Playgroup;

12pm- Lunch for birth  
through age 18.

Date: Monday, July 22, 2019  
Time: 10am  
Location: 1043 Main Street  
West Warwick, RI 02893



## Community Needs

- Statewide participation rate has decreased by 672 clients within the past 6 months.
- State WIC data tables from the 2018 year end report illustrates 65 – 79% of WIC eligible are unserved in the areas that we provide WIC services.
- The 2019 RI Kids Count Fact book data paints a staggering picture, 63-67% WIC eligible children in the surrounding cities from the W.W Library were not enrolled or actively participating in the WIC program.

## Project Background

**Project Name:** Preschool Development Support for Families

**Focus Families:** Low – Income Residents in Kent and South Counties

**Number of Families:** 30 Families Targeted

**Partners:** DHS, DOH, United Way 2-1-1, & West Warwick Library



# Roundtable Discussion

- What are RI's strengths in supporting families of young children?
- What opportunities do you see to better support families?
- How can Children's Cabinet agencies support your community?